

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

September 27, 2021

The Honorable Martha Williams
Principal Deputy Director,
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington DC 20240

Dear Principal Deputy Director Williams:

We write to you today in response to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (USFWS) announcement that they have completed the initial review of two petitions filed to list gray wolves in the western United States under the Endangered Species Act—and that USFWS will be initiating a 12-month comprehensive status review of the gray wolf.

State-run and private conservation efforts have been shown to be more than adequate in managing gray wolves at sustainable levels since de-listing and gray wolf populations in the areas designated by these petitions—such as Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming—have far exceeded the federal management objectives of 150 wolves and 15 breeding pairs per state¹. There are currently an estimated 3,000 gray wolves in the Rocky Mountain states: 1,556 in Idaho², 1,117 in Montana³, and 327 in Wyoming⁴. Each of these states have far exceeded their population goals.

On October 29th, 2020, USFWS released a statement that “the gray wolf population in the lower 48 states is more than 6,000 wolves, greatly exceeding the combined recovery goals for the

¹ Sells, S. N., A. C. Keever, M. S. Mitchell, J. Gude, K. Podruzny, and R. Inman. 2020. Improving estimation of wolf recruitment and abundance, and development of an adaptive harvest management program for wolves in Montana. Final Report for Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Grant W-161-R-1. Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks, Helena, Montana. P.7

[1-montana-wolf-monitoring-study-final-report-compressed.pdf \(mt.gov\)](#)

² Idaho Fish and Game. (2021, February 8) “Idaho wolf populations remains stable between 2019 and 2020 despite higher mortality”.

[Idaho wolf populations remains stable between 2019 and 2020 despite higher mortality | Idaho Fish and Game](#)

³Inman, B., K. Podruzny, T. Parks, T. Smucker, M. Ross, N. Lance, W. Cole, M. Parks, S. Sells, and S. Wells. 2020. Montana Gray Wolf Conservation and Management 2020 Annual Report. Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks. Helena, Montana. P.10

[annual-wolf-report-2020 .pdf \(mt.gov\)](#)

⁴ Wyoming Game and Fish Department, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Park Service, USDA-APHIS-Wildlife Services, and Eastern Shoshone and Northern Arapahoe Tribal Fish and Game Department. 2021. Wyoming Gray Wolf Monitoring and Management 2020 Annual Report. K.J. Mills and Z. Gregory, eds. Wyoming Game and Fish Department, 5400 Bishop Blvd. Cheyenne, WY 82006. P.1

[DRAFT \(wyo.gov\)](#)

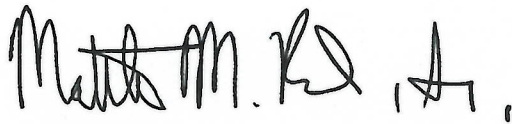
Northern Rocky Mountains and Western Great Lakes populations”⁵. It seems strange that in under a year, the situation could change enough to warrant this comprehensive status review.

Furthermore, many of the organizations that have submitted these petitions have long been known for frivolous litigation and radical environmental activism. Petitions introduced by these organizations are rarely introduced in good faith with a goal of sound wildlife management, but rather to further an extreme political agenda at the behest of environmentalist ideologues.

We hope that in the upcoming status review, USFWS will follow all the relevant science, not just the concerns of serial litigants who would like to see the gray wolf permanently listed under the Endangered Species Act—regardless of the massive strides we have made in the restoration and management of the gray wolf population in the western United States.

We look forward to working with you on this important issue for the West.

Sincerely,



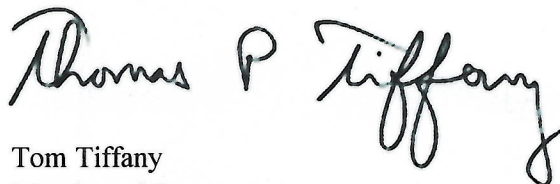
Matt Rosendale, Sr.
Member of Congress



Doug LaMalfa
Member of Congress



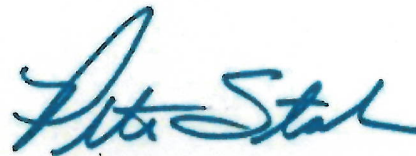
Tom McClintock
Member of Congress



Tom Tiffany
Member of Congress



Cliff Bentz
Member of Congress



Pete Stauber
Member of Congress

⁵ U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. (2020, October 29) “Trump Administration Returns Management and Protection of Gray Wolves to States and Tribes Following Successful Recovery Efforts”.
[News Releases - U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service \(fws.gov\)](https://www.fws.gov/news-releases)

A stylized, cursive handwritten signature of Lauren Boebert, featuring a large 'L' and 'B'.

Lauren Boebert
Member of Congress

A cursive handwritten signature of Michelle Fischbach, with a prominent 'M' and 'F'.

Michelle Fischbach
Member of Congress

A cursive handwritten signature of Ken Buck, with a large 'K' and 'B'.

Ken Buck
Member of Congress